



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS FOR VETERANS

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From the desk of Secretary Tom Johnson:

### "Help Our Troops Call Home" in December

As you and your families begin the holiday season, we encourage you to take time to appreciate the many blessings and freedoms that allow us to celebrate in so many diverse and wonderful ways.

This time of year brings many opportunities for each of us to reach out beyond our own wants and needs to help those around us. We are proud of our fellow Californians who organize Food Drives, "Toys for Tots" collections, the State Employees Charitable Campaign and the many other generous efforts we all support.

This year, we join the California National Guards' **Operation Ready Families Program** in asking you to remember Californians serving in the military away from their families by sending calling cards. We've been told that the number one item requested by soldiers is a calling card.

"Help Our Troops Call Home" delivers an instant morale boost with phone cards offering up to two hours of talk time for calls placed from any of AAFES' 69 call centers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, or Kuwait.

Anyone can send a Soldier a Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone card by logging on to <https://thor.aafes.com/scs/default.aspx> or by calling 1-800-527-2345. From there, the phone cards are sent to individual service members designated by the sender, or distributed to "any service member" through the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House, or USO.

### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

*Note to editors: This News For Veterans and previous CDVA News For Veterans are available on our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via e-mail from [jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov)*